

SOLID INSIDE WASTE

LOS ANGELES COUNTY SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE/
INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT TASK FORCE



Autumn 2002

Volume 32



With meeting waste diversion mandates a top priority for cities, many recycling coordinators are looking for ideas and techniques to improve their programs and raise awareness among residents about source reduction issues. One key to success is having an experienced and dedicated team that strives to help residents improve the quality of life for all.

Environmental Program Coordinator Cynthia Vant Hul and the Sanitation Division staff in the City of Claremont are a perfect example of a dedicated team willing to seek out and implement new ideas. Don't let the size of the staff fool you, either. With five members, including an intern, dedication is an understatement.

During the past 20 years, Claremont has been a leader in recycling. The City's curbside program was one of the first in the State when it began in 1982. Through the 1990s, the program improved by introducing an automated commingled aspect and later expanding the program to green waste.

Cynthia, who has been with Claremont for the last four years, credits these achievements to staff and management for having a strong team spirit and a "passion" for wanting to clean up Claremont.

"It's always fun and challenging, and I always welcome a challenge. We wait for the next challenge, regroup and hold together as a strong team in order to get the job done. The support we receive from the rest of the City also helps the Sanitation Division reach our goals."

Support at all levels also contributes to Claremont's leadership role in residential recycling. A home generated sharps (HGS) waste program was also developed in 1999 as one of the first in Los Angeles County. Participating sharps recycling locations distribute free one-quart containers for sharps disposal and will accept the containers once they are filled. The HGS containers are sent to a certified medical waste treatment center and are later processed into energy.

Claremont has also been chosen as the only city in the State to receive a grant from the U.S. EPA for their efforts in expanding a portion of the City known as the "Village." The grant will assist during the demolition phase of the Village Expansion in the proper reuse and recycling of construction and demolition material. It is estimated that 98 percent of the C&D material will be reused and/or recycled which will also help the City meet State mandated diversion goals.

Claremont is also home to nine, world-renown colleges. These campuses have helped increase commercial recycling while encouraging it among students in the City. Cynthia and staff worked directly with the colleges to design a fully commingled recycling program with assistance from a grant by the Department of Conservation.

As if these programs weren't enough, Cynthia also helps with the City's Alternative Fuel Program for the City fleet of refuse trucks, roll-off trucks, and street sweepers.

continued on page 2

JOIN THE TEAM: Anyone interested in participating on the Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Public Education Subcommittee is encouraged to contact Clarence Gieck at (562) 402-2674, DOR.CLAR@verizon.net or Melinda Barrett at (626) 458-5975 or mbarrett@ladpw.org for more information. Quarterly meetings are held at the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works Headquarters to discuss and review upcoming newsletters. If you feel you have something to contribute why not become a member of the Subcommittee?

If you would like to submit an article for *Inside Solid Waste* please contact **Emily Montanez** at (626) 458-3579, or emontanez@ladpw.org.

LET'S TALK TRASH

July 1, 2002, was a highly anticipated day for East Los Angeles residents, Supervisor Gloria Molina, and the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works. July 1 was the culmination of the largest automated trash collection system implementation in the shortest amount of time (62 days) in California and for a County Garbage Disposal District ever! Public Works is responsible for the operation and administration of all six County Garbage Disposal Districts, including Belvedere GDD, which encompasses the East Los Angeles area serving a population of 130,000 residents. The new automated trash collection contract, awarded to Consolidated Disposal Service (CDS), was designed to place a greater emphasis on the need to recycle and reduce waste. In addition to meeting all of the bid requirements, CDS was partly awarded the contract based on their willingness to customize service to the various neighborhoods of East Los Angeles.

To ensure a smooth transition from the manual to an automated system, a team comprised of staff from Supervisor Molina's office, Public Works, and CDS put together an aggressive public education campaign. Within a month, the Belvedere public education team held a series of community meetings, introducing the new system to the residents of the Belvedere GDD. Local media was also utilized to supplement the team's efforts—constantly reminding residents of the changes that were coming to East Los Angeles.

As the start date rapidly approached, the cooperation of all parties involved was absolutely essential. While the trash bin manufacturer put all other

contracts on hold to fill the County's order, the Belvedere team coordinated the staging and distribution of the containers. Since the contract called for each residence to receive a 96-gallon container for trash and two 64-gallon containers for recyclables and yard waste, distributing the nearly 90,000 containers in three weeks was no easy feat. Since July 1, there have been relatively few problems with the trash collection in East Los Angeles and the residents should be congratulated for their support and their participation. Being the first of the County's six Garbage Disposal Districts to receive automated service, Public Works expects Belvedere residents to increase recycling and benefit from the improved appearance of their community, setting an example for the rest of the Garbage Disposal Districts to follow as well as other parts of the County's unincorporated areas.



Claremont *continued from page 1*

Maintaining these vehicles may seem like a “dirty” job, but Cynthia has helped clean up the pollution these vehicles can cause. Biodiesel, a fuel made with 20 percent vegetable oil, fuels the fleet of trucks and since the first delivery of this fuel in June of 2001, and more than 49,000 gallons have been used in the City.

With a Master's degree in Public Administration, Cynthia helps the City of Claremont efficiently run many of the

programs available to its 35,000 residents. She says the City staff is the key to the City's success and commitment from government and residents helps Claremont achieve many of the goals of its waste diversion programs.

Congratulations to Cynthia and the City of Claremont for their innovative and successful ways of helping to protect our environment. For more information on these programs, please call (909) 399-5431.

Update On E-Waste

HHW Roundups are not just for paint, motor oil, and household cleaners anymore. You can now take your old computer or television to any of the Roundups listed to the right or on our website at www.888CleanLA.com.

Beginning October 1, 2002, the County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors announced the newly expanded Countywide HHW/E-Waste Program. After evaluating other potential alternatives for the proper management of E-Waste, the County Board of Supervisors elected to incorporate E-Waste as part of its Hazardous Waste Collection Program.

The County Roundups will continue to be jointly conducted by the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works and the Sanitation Districts. By accepting e-waste at roundup events, the total number of events offered to residents throughout the year will decrease by 25 percent during the next six months while costs are evaluated. To further increase proper disposal methods of e-waste, cities are encouraged to work with their local retailers in providing a buy back program so residents can have more options in discarding their old televisions, computer monitors, and microwaves.

Please visit www.888CleanLA.com or call 1(888)CLEAN LA for future Roundup dates.

What's Up?

HHW ROUNDUPS are open from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. unless otherwise indicated. For more information, call the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works, at **1(888)CLEAN-LA (253-2652)**. For information about City of Los Angeles events call **1(800)98-TOXIC (988-6942)**.

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|-------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| November 23 | La Verne - Brackett Field
Fairplex Dr. & West Mckinley Ave. |
| November 23 - 24 | Elysian Park - Dodger Stadium Parking Lot, Stadium Way at Lilac Terr.
Next to the Navy Reserve Center
(Conducted by the City of Los Angeles. Electronic waste accepted only on Saturday.) |
| December 7 | Malibu - Malibu Civic Center, Rear Parking Lot, 23519 Civic Center Way |
| December 7 - 8 | Sunland - K-Mart, 8040 Foothill Blvd. Foothill Blvd. and Langmuir Ave.
(Conducted by the City of Los Angeles. Electronic waste accepted only on Saturday.) |
| December 14 | Lomita - Lomita City Hall Parking Lot, 24300 Narbonne Ave. |
| December 21 | Compton - Compton Airport
901 West Alondra Blvd. |
| December 20
(12 pm to 3 pm)
& December 21
(9 am to 3 pm) | Avalon - Household Hazardous Waste Facility. Pebbly Beach Road at Roaring Canyon |
| January 11 | Bell Gardens - John Anson Ford Park
Baseball Field Parking Lot,
Park Lane east of Garfield Ave. |
| January 25 | Hermosa Beach - City Streets by Clark Stadium, Valley Dr. between 8th St. & 11th St. |
| February 1 | Claremont - Claremont City Yard
215 Cornell Ave. |

TASK FORCE MEETINGS

Meetings will be held at the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works Headquarters, 900 South Fremont Avenue, Alhambra.

Nov. 21 - Rm C
Dec. 19 - Rm D

All meetings are scheduled for 1:00 p.m. in the designated conference rooms.

*For information
call Stacey Haro
at (626) 458-3547.
M-Th,
7 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.*

2001 – 2002 LEGISLATIVE SESSION ENDS

The State Legislature recently ended its 2001–2002 regular session. Below is a listing of the solid waste management bills that were either chaptered, vetoed, or not passed by the legislature.

Chaptered Bills

AB 173 (Chavez) - Solid Waste: Fees

Requires the CIWMB, by January 1, 2004, to adopt regulations establishing appropriate levels of oversight of the management of construction and demolition waste and inert waste at mine reclamation sites.

AB 1201(Pavley) - Stormwater Pollution

Authorizes the California Used Oil Recycling Program to fund education and mitigation projects relating to storm water pollution from used oil and oil byproducts.

AB 1482 (Richman) - Regional Agencies

Authorizes regional agencies to apportion non-compliance penalties based upon the jurisdiction's responsibility for the regional agency not meeting diversion requirements.

AB 2214 (Keeley) - Low-Level Radioactive Waste

Prohibits the issuance or renewal of a license for the disposal of low-level radioactive waste unless there is compliance with Federal regulations. In addition, it specifies design requirements for low-level radioactive facilities and prohibits the siting of the Ward Valley facility.

AB 2308 (Chavez) - Inert Waste

Prior to this law, all inert waste "disposed" at unclassified landfills that do not have a Solid Waste Facility Permit (SWFP) is not counted as disposal when measuring compliance with AB 939. However, inert waste disposed at unclassified landfills with a SWFP is counted as disposal for the same purpose. This bill addresses this inconsistency by providing that inert waste placed at an existing or former surface mining operation with a SWFP would not count toward disposal until such time as the CIWMB adopts regulations concerning disposal of construction and demolition materials and inert waste at depleted gravel pits.

(See full analysis on last page.)

AB 2356 (Keeley) - Compost Contamination

Makes findings and declarations related to the threat of the herbicide clopyralid to composting programs.

AB 2770 (Matthews) - Conversion Technology

In its earlier version, this bill was crafted to spur the development of conversion technologies by making them eligible for a ten percent diversion credit. However, in the end, the bill was amended to eliminate the credit. As signed into law, the Bill turned essentially into a "study" bill.

(See full analysis on last page.)

SB 373 (Torlakson) - Environmental Education

Requires the State Board of Education and State Department of Education to develop environmental education standards for elementary and secondary schools.

SB 470 (Sher) - Hazardous Waste Control: Used Oil

Makes material changes relating to hazardous waste and increases the amount of "used oil" a person can transport from 20 gallons to 55 gallons.

SB 648 (Environmental Quality Committee) - Public Contracts: Recycled Products

Requires the State Department of General Services to report to the Legislature on recycled product purchasing by each State agency.

SB 649 (Environmental Quality Committee) - Used and Waste Tires

Strengthens State law regarding the transportation of used tires and the operation of waste tire facilities.

SB 1011 (Sher) - Household Hazardous Waste

Expands the number of items that can be collected under a jurisdiction's household hazardous waste collection program.

SB 1328 (Chesbro) - Illegal Disposal

Authorizes Native American tribes to be eligible for illegal dumping grants.

SB 1346 (Kuehl) - Tire Recycling Program

Authorizes the CIWMB to award grants to jurisdictions for public works projects using rubberized asphalt concrete.

SB 1374 (Kuehl) - Construction And Demolition

Requires the CIWMB to adopt a model ordinance for diverting 50 to 75 percent of construction and demolition (C&D) waste from landfills. Local jurisdictions must provide specified information to the CIWMB regarding C&D waste in their annual report.

SB 1542 (Escutia) - Environmental Justice

This bill requires the CIWMB, by April 2003, to develop models to assist local jurisdictions to address environmental justice concerns when developing or revising their countywide siting element. A countywide siting element must include a description of the actions taken to solicit public participation by the affected communities, including minority and low income populations.

SB 2065 (Kuehl) - Radioactive Waste

Requires the Department of Transportation to establish reporting procedures for low-level radioactive waste and require generators of LLRW to report specified information.

Legislative Update

Vetoed Bills

SB 441 (Sher) - Beverage Containers: Recycling

Makes technical changes to the California Beverage Container Recycling Act. In its earlier version, this bill would have placed restrictions on the use of alternative daily cover.

SB 1523 (Sher) & SB 1619 (Romero) - E-Waste

Establishes a Statewide program to recycle televisions and computers by imposing a \$10 fee on each television and computer sold.

SB 1882 (Alpert) - Diaper Recycling

Requires the CIWMB to prepare a report on diaper recycling.

SB 1970 (Romero) - Radiation Safety Act of 2001

Prohibits the disposal of low-level radioactive waste at urban landfills.

Bills Not Passed by the Legislature

AB 751 (Jackson) - Mercury-containing Lamp Waste

Requires fluorescent bulbs containing mercury to be managed as a hazardous waste and regulates their recycling.

AB 802 (Dickerson) - Biomass To Energy Facilities

Provides 100 percent diversion credit for biomass conversion.

AB 1483 (Richman) - California Threatened Water Supply Act of 2001

Defines “critical water supply area” as an area of land that is not suitable for a new or existing solid waste landfill. In turn, this new definition would prevent the siting of any landfill in the state.

AB 1952 (Bogh) - Biomass Conversion

Spurs the development of conversion technology by removing existing disincentives.

ABX2 74 (Bogh) - Biomass Conversion

Encourages the development of conversion technology.

ACR 101(Leslie) - Solid Waste Disposal Cost

Recommends to the University of California to conduct a study to determine the “true cost” of disposal.

SB 530 (Sher) - Renewable Energy

Excludes conversion technology facilities and waste tire facilities from being eligible for funding under the State’s Renewable Energy Program.

SB 1069 (Chesbro) - Plastic Pollution Prevention Fee

Requires manufacturers to pay a plastic pollution prevention fee for every plastic container that fails to equal or exceed a recycling rate of 50 percent by January 2005.

SB 1524 (Sher) - Renewable Energy

Excludes conversion technology facilities and waste tire facilities from being eligible for funding under the State’s Renewable Energy Program.

SB 1526 (Romero) - Zero Waste Goal: Conversion Technology

Codifies a zero waste goal and creates a conversion technology and biomass task force.

SB 1587 (Romero) - Solid Waste: Landfill Facilities: Disposal Sites

Requires Cal-EPA to review its programs for any gaps that may impede environmental justice, and place more stringent requirements on landfill operations.

SB 1623 (Romero) - Radiation Safety Act of 2002

Prohibits the disposal of low-level radioactive waste at urban landfills.

SB 1728 (Costa) - Ethanol: Biomass Resources

Creates a subsidy program to foster the development of ethanol for use in fuel provided it is made from “urban biomass waste.”

SBX1 29 (Soto) - Methane Demonstration Project

Appropriates \$5 million in grants to fund research on emerging anaerobic digesting technologies (a variation of conversion technology), and \$20 million for matching grant funds for pilot projects.

For additional information, please contact Mr. Mike Mohajer of Public Works at (626) 458-3500, Monday through Friday 7 am-5 pm.

INERT WASTE ISSUE FINALLY SETTLED

With the stroke of a pen, on September 27, 2002, the Governor signed AB 2308 (Chavez) into law settling the long-standing issue of "what counts and what does not count as 'disposal'" at permitted versus unpermitted unclassified landfills. Due to the lack of a uniform Statewide policy, prior to AB 2308, inert material/debris disposed at unclassified (inert solid waste) landfills possessing a Solid Waste Facility Permit **was counted** as "disposal" for the purpose of measuring compliance with the State's 50 percent waste reduction mandate. However, inert waste disposed at unclassified landfills **without** a SWFP **was not counted** as "disposal" for the same purpose. Consequently, this inconsistent State policy created a dilemma for local jurisdictions as to "what counts and what does not count as 'disposal'" thereby hampering efforts to effectively implement waste diversion programs.

Now, under AB 2308, the above inconsistency is addressed by providing that inert waste placed at an existing or former surface mining operation with a SWFP **would not** count toward "disposal" until such time as the Waste Board adopts regulations concerning disposal of construction and demolition materials and inert waste at depleted gravel pits.

"Since May 1999, when the [LACIWM] Task Force adopted a series of recommendations to address various AB 939 deficiencies, including a recommendation that the State address the inert waste controversy, this Task Force has worked very hard to get an administrative or legislative fix to this problem and level the playing field," said Mike Mohajer of Public Works. "I am very glad that the Task Force's hard work with the Waste Board and other stakeholders to get this law passed was successful."

On November 4, 2002, the Waste Board conducted a workshop to provide information to jurisdictions on how AB 2308 will be implemented. For information on how AB 2308 may affect your jurisdiction, please contact Steve Uselson of the Waste Board at (562) 981-9095.

CONVERSION TECHNOLOGY BILL STRIPPED OF ITS MERITS AND BECOMES LAW

On September 20, 2002, the Governor signed AB 2770 (Matthews), capping a bruising battle between local governments and special interest groups – with the latter coming up ahead. In its early stages, AB 2770 promised to spur the development of state-of-the-art conversion technologies (processes that convert residual solid waste into renewable and environmentally benign fuels, chemicals, and sources of clean energy) to reduce dependence on landfills and incinerators by making them eligible for 10 percent diversion credit. Since nearly 2/3 of the disposal waste stream is comprised of organic waste, conversion technologies promise to significantly divert a substantial portion of these materials.

Despite strong support from this Task Force, local governments, waste industries, the Waste Board, and strong bipartisan support from the legislature, two days before the end of the Legislative session the bill was amended significantly in the Senate Environmental Quality Committee.

As signed into law, AB 2770 is a "study bill" which essentially requires the Waste Board to include, as part of their annual report to the Legislature, a report on new and emerging conversion technologies. The bill also provides \$1.5 million to the Waste Board to conduct studies on conversion technologies.

While the passage of AB 2770 was a temporary setback for local jurisdictions, the LACIWM Task Force remains fully committed to pursuing any administrative/legislative measures that would spur the development of conversion technologies, which it has since May 1999. The Task Force urges local jurisdictions to continue informing their legislative representatives of the importance and necessity of conversion technologies.

Los Angeles County
Solid Waste Management Committee/
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